

REMARKS

In the February 25, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner:

- Rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 200-118238 (“JP ‘238”) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,523,869 (“Jensen”);
- Objected to claim 5 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim; and
- Objected to claims 1 and 5 due to formalities.

Applicant amends claims 1, 6 and 7, and cancels claims 2 and 5. No new matter has been added. The pending claims are claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 1 and 5 due to formalities. Applicant has incorporated the Examiner’s suggestions in the amendments to the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP ‘238 in view of Jensen. Applicant, however, traverses this rejection, in light of the amendments.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 5, which contains allowable subject matter. Applicant believes that the independent claim 1 is now allowable. Additionally, because claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1, Applicant also believes that these claims are now allowable. The limitations of claim 2 have been incorporated into claim 1 and claim 2 has been canceled. In light of the forgoing, Applicant believes that rejected claims 1, 3, and 4 are now allowable and therefore requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claim 5, but has noted that claim 5 would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claim 5 has been canceled and incorporated into independent claim 1. Applicant believes that the aforementioned independent claim is now allowable. Additionally, because claims 6 and 7 were dependent upon claim 5, claims 6 and 7 have been amended to include dependency order of the claims. Applicant also believes that those claims are now allowable. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this objection.

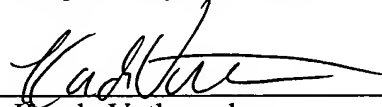
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in a condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner believe that the claims are not in condition for allowance, the Applicant encourages the Examiner to call the undersigned attorney at (415) 442-1106 to set up an interview.

If there are any fees or credits due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, including any fees required for an Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.136, authorization is given to charge any necessary fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310 (order No. 060945-0161-US). A copy of this sheet is enclosed for such purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

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